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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SAYS BULGARIA SETS UP SPECIAL COURTS
TO TRY RAILROAD SABOTEURS

SERIOUS ACCIDENTS REPORTED -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 52, 23 Feb 50

Belgrade -- According to information from Sofia, the Bulgarian government recently has decided to establish special courts for trying railroad saboteurs. All persons who "either deliberately or through carelessness" are responsible for sabotage will be sentenced. This confirms previous reports that a number of serious accidents were caused by saboteurs and that at times transportation has been crippled in certain sectors.

Svenska Dagbladet's correspondent has also learned from Sofia that the directors of several state lumber companies and a number of high officials of the Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues Commission have been arrested as "enemies of the people" and have been accused of sabotage because the planned production of timber has not been fulfilled. Only 6-10 percent of the stipulated quantities of lumber were produced in many districts during January and the first half of February, affecting the export of timber very adversely. It was stated expressly in the accusation that the underproduction was not caused by any shortage of labor, but by excessive holidays. (Orthodox Bulgarians celebrate Christmas and New Year's in January.)

PLOT AGAINST BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT -- Svenska Dagbladet, No 56, 27 Feb 50

A telegram from Sofia to the official British Zone newspaper Die Welt reports that a plot against the Bulgarian Communist regime has been discovered by the secret police in Sofia. Chief of the General Staff Kinov; General Bagrayanov, the highest Political Commissar in Bulgaria; General Teschev, the commander of the Sofia garrison; Minister of Transportation Markov, and a number of army officers have been arrested.

The leader of the conspiracy was General Kinov, and the coup was to take place, with the support of the army, shortly after President Dimitrov's death. The plans for the overthrow of the Communist regime had been worked out in detail, but the secret police got wind of the planned coup and crushed it.

- 1 -

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Kinov was summoned to the Soviet Union shortly before Dimitrov's death in Moscow last summer. There he made public a "Dimitrov sick-bed statement," but it is reported that after his arrival in Sofia he said that he had been forced to sign a statement written out beforehand. He never did get to visit Dimitrov.

Kinov is reported then to have called together a number of high-ranking Bulgarian officers and informed them of his belief that Dimitrov had been murdered. He urged them to aid him in overthrowing the Communist regime.

According to the newspaper, it is now expected in Sofia that the Russian Marshal Konev will assume command of the Bulgarian Army in the same way Marshal Rokossovskiy assumed command over the Polish Army.

REPORTS SOVIET TROOPS IN BULGARIA -- Cumhuriyet, No 9190 11 Mar 50

Recent reports indicate that 450 officials of the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs have arrived in Bulgaria to take over control of all internal affairs. Soviet military units have also occupied the Pirin and Maritza areas from which all civilians were recently evacuated. Units of the Soviet Black Sea fleet have been assembled in the port of Stalin.

There are increased signs that a new purge, which will include a majority of the present leading Communists, will be carried out in Bulgaria.

REPORTS ANTI-SOVIET MOVEMENT IN BULGARIA -- Cumhuriyet, No 9194, 15 Mar 50

Reliable reports reaching Belgrade indicate that in recent months a strong anti-Soviet trend has appeared among high-ranking Bulgarian Army officers as a result of Russian interference in army affairs. It is frequently said that a Russian general will be sent to Bulgaria to administer the Bulgarian Army just as Rokossovskiy is doing in Poland. A large-scale purge has begun in the Bulgarian Army on the pretext that a conspiracy had been prepared against the present regime and against the lives of certain high personages in Sofia.

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- 2 -

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